

sponsors programs on gerontology, environmental issues, and DARE Red Ribbon celebrations. Membership in the El Monte Women's Club today consists of 65 women dedicated to serving the community's needs, while providing opportunities to develop personal leadership skills, educating the public, stimulating civic consciousness and commemorating women's history.

It gives me great pride to honor and congratulate the El Monte Women's Club for its 100 years of contributions to the community.

CEDAR FALLS TO RECEIVE A 2002 GREAT AMERICAN MAIN STREET AWARD

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share some good news about a well-deserved award bestowed recently upon Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation rightfully chose Cedar Falls to receive a 2002 Great American Main Street Award. The award recognizes America's best efforts in historic preservation-based commercial district revitalization.

Mr. Speaker, as someone who has seen first hand what this community has accomplished on behalf of its citizens, let me assure you that this honor is wholly deserved.

Like many American communities, Cedar Falls experienced a loss of jobs during the 1980s. By 1987, Cedar Falls' historic business district was in trouble and nearly vacant. Although committed to their downtown business district, the community struggled with a long-term revitalization plan.

Today, only two storefronts are empty. Today, downtown Cedar Falls is an attractive, vibrant place to work and visit.

The Cedar Falls Community Main Street program helped bring the community back to life. The program supported inter-agency partnerships and the lead economic development partner in the community.

Due to the dedication of the Cedar Falls Community Main Street downtown development group over the last 15 years, the area has seen a net gain of 237 new jobs, 306 building renovations or improvements, with \$8.2 million in private funds invested in rehabilitation and another \$5.6 million in property acquisition. The group includes downtown merchants, lifelong residents, and newcomers who have discovered the newly preserved and revitalized community.

I offer my sincere congratulations on this award to the Cedar Falls residents who had the vision and dedication to make such a dramatic difference in their community.

HONORING MILTON FISHER

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of

one of our Nation's leading sportsmen and environmentalists. Milton Lee Fischer, of Nehalem, Oregon, recently passed away in a traffic accident near his home in Nehalem.

Milton, who was a California native, was one of the top fly-fishing guides in the world. He was also a fierce advocate for maintaining and improving the health of the streams he fished. Despite the large number of trout and steelhead that he caught, Milton nearly always released the fish, including hatchery fish. Milton's fly-fishing guests would be treated to lessons in conservation and biology, at the same time learning from his expert fly-fishing technique.

Milton used a slack-line fly-fishing technique developed in California for catching small stream trout that very few people are able to master. When most anglers would hang up their fly rods for the winter steelhead season, Milton would still be leading trips along the small streams of Oregon's northern coast.

The Oregonian newspaper quoted him as saying, "You give me equal conditions and I think I have as good or better chance of hooking a winter steelhead as anyone with bait. In fact, I'll follow you downriver and still find the fish." Milton's confidence came from his long hours spent perfecting his casting, as well as his broad knowledge of the biology and ecology of the rivers he fished. His business, River House and Pleasure Outfitters, was a favorite among fishermen and sportsmen across the country, including Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber.

Mr. Speaker, very few people rise to the top of their profession. The consensus among both amateur and professional anglers is that Milton Fischer was among a handful of the most elite fly-fishermen in the world. Please join me in honoring the memory of this outstanding American.

HONORING CLIFTON J. SHIPMAN FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

HON. CHARLES H. TAYLOR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of Western North Carolina's most outstanding citizens, Mr. Clifton J. Shipman of Hendersonville, on the occasion of his receiving the first-ever Community Service Award given by the Hendersonville Merchants and Business Association. On Wednesday, April 17th, 2002, the civic and business leaders of Hendersonville gathered to pay tribute to Cliff's character, entrepreneurship, generosity and community service in bestowing upon him this prestigious award. Clifton J. Shipman truly exemplifies the best combination of the American spirit of enterprise coupled with service to his community, and the following newspaper story gives an account of why he is held in such high esteem.

[From the Hendersonville Times-News, Apr. 18, 2002]

SHIPMAN RECEIVES FIRST COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

(By Jim Wooldridge)

HENDERSONVILLE, NC.—A local entrepreneur, known as much for his modesty as for his business success, won the first ever Community Service Award given Wednesday

night by the Hendersonville Merchants & Business Association.

Clifton J. Shipman, 79, owner of the Chariot and the Cedars, plus much of the property on both sides of Seventh Avenue downtown, was chosen unanimously for the award, said presenter Carolyn Swanner.

"In reviewing his record, we found he started more than 25 businesses here and was operating 15 of them at the same time," Swanner said. "And that was before we had computers."

A third-generation native, Shipman started his enterprises between the time he ended his World War II service in 1946 and his partial retirement five years ago. He was probably best known, she said, for Clifton's Cafeteria at the corner of Church Street and Seventh Avenue. The building is now the Chariot, a dining room for private meetings and for most of the Hendersonville civic clubs.

"The impressive thing about Cliff was his extraordinary modesty," said Mac Drake, a lifelong acquaintance who got his first job from Shipman. "He never sought recognition for charitable work that touched so many people." An example, he said, was Shipman's giving the former Lutheran church building across Church Street from the Chariot to the Reformation Presbyterian Church.

His first business was the Hendersonville Riding Stables and Saddle Club, which offered not only horseback riding but three dances a week, many featuring big-name orchestras such as "Les Brown and His Band of Renown."

This property, on State Street, was Clifton's home until he bought a farm in Flat Rock several years ago. A barn on the property is the theater for the Hendersonville Little Theater company. He opened a newsstand in 1948 in the Brooks Building on Third Avenue West. It was named The Smoke Shop and was popular with young people, Swanner said. He opened his first restaurant, Clifton's, in the same building in 1950.

In 1951, he leased Hendersonville's public swimming pool on Washington Street and ran it until 1954, when he sold it to the American Legion. He started the Smokehouse restaurant on Asheville Highway in 1954, a business which today is the Quarter House.

He leased Boyd Park in 1954 and built a miniature golf course, tennis courts, shuffleboard courts, and a dance pavilion. In 1958 he leased Jump-off Rock from the Town of Laurel Park and built another dance pavilion, this one with picnic area and gift shop.

Shipman converted a gasoline service station on the Asheville Highway into Hendersonville's first fast-food restaurant. It was a huge success, Swanner said, because burgers, fries and milkshakes were priced at 19 cents; soft drinks, 5 cents.

Started in 1959, this restaurant was named the Hasty Tasty. He built a new building for it in 1962 on the corner of Church Street and Eighth Avenue East. The building cost \$3,800 and Shipman sold enough 19-cent burgers to pay for it in four weeks, Swanner continued.

The Chicken Shack restaurant was another converted service station he operated in on Seventh Avenue West until 1995. It is now used as a bus stop.

Concentrating on Church Street, Shipman built his Minit Carwash in 1966 and the cafeteria two years later. Using the cafeteria's cooking capability, he bought the Chariot building on Seventh Avenue in 1970 and made it the main meeting place for service organizations.

He bought the Cedars in 1976 and spent two years restoring the former mansion as a location for wedding receptions and dinner meetings. His last major purchase was the former post office, now called the Federal Building, at the corner of Church Street and Fourth Avenue East.